Child Development Homes

Kathleen Jennings

CDY Director's Training
Virginia Beach, VA
24 August 2004

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE

NAVY

- 23 Providers transferred from MHA to NAFCC Accreditation at Chesapeake, San Diego, Lemoore, Yokosuka, Charleston, Annapolis, Lakehurst, and Whidbey Island

- 13 Providers in Self-Study from San Diego, Lemoore, Yokosuka, Charleston, Annapolis
- Goal is 288 Accredited Providers

NAFCC

- See attached Annual Report
- Military is ahead – However, NAFCC has been doing some serious networking to continue building respect for the profession.

- If the word “learning” is in it, the public will listen rather than the word “education” – must convey the worth of in home care
  - This is where children get their Early Childhood “Education”

Dismantle the Myth

- In-home care is not babysitting and provider's work is worth a living wage
- Empower providers by building the child care and advocacy skills
- NAFCC working toward economic reforms – worthy wage, corporate and public funds involved (e.g., public schools – if brain development most crucial from 0-5 years then provide funding for "Early Learning"

Need Unification

- Family Child Care, Family Day Care, Child Development Homes, In-Home Care, Home-Based Care, Home Provider (some seem like home health care)
- Early Learning Provider (could be CDC or CDH), Early Learning Professional, Early Childhood Educator
- Different States - Registered, Licensed, Certified, Accredited, Contracted
- Legally Exempt, Unlicensed, Underground
- Relative Care – we have to be advocates for quality, but how to bring them in without being threatening or uppity. Some illegal aliens so “licensing” scares them

NAFCC Strategies

- Create a community of learners among FCC providers
- Continuing education for providers – raising the bar on qualifications just like other jobs
- Connect to professional organizations – learning how to do advocacy

Goals

- Connect with other parts of the EC field because the issues affect all the parts of EC care and education (changing the social/cultural status of child care work, getting living wages & benefits, public and corporate responsibility for sharing the costs)
- What we do is fundamental to our society's thriving - food, clothing, shelter, child care.
- Military tasked to share their "Lessons Learned" and increase the quality of care for all children 0-5 years in America

NAVY CDH; PROGRESS MADE

Resolved From Last Year's Training

- Garden Style Flags are being shipped
- Use a window emblem or hang the flag in the window if above the ground floor
- Standard Transition Procedures Established
- Need joint training with CDC/CDPA so they hear the same policies – HERE WE ARE!

Resolved From Last Year's Training

- PPV Housing and Jurisdiction Letter
- 17 States with Navy CDH have an MOU or approval letter for Off-Base CDH (5 without)
- American Council on Education course reviewed - 3 Semester credits for $35
- 24 students registered since January 2004!

Training & Curriculum Specialists

- Spending time in homes to conduct FDCRS reviews
- Assisting with Orientation and Monthly Training
- Spending time in homes to conduct Module assessments
- Assisting CDH Staff by observing children for developmental assessments/special needs referrals
- One Team with CDC and SAC training schedule!

Good Ideas From Last Year

- Commands can certify civilians and give them access to base with a “Contractor Pass”
- Power of Attorney – If your Legal won’t let parents sign a blanket POA, then one solution is to become a Notary Public ($75 NAF USA)

More Good Ideas

- Plan a variety of training sessions in different locations, at different times/days of the week to ensure shift work providers can attend.
- Review your local SOP at least annually or when new regional policy is issued and update procedures.
- Vary the Lending Library Hours and ensure some evening hours are

Web Based Information

- Use the web-site (e.g., Cycles of Service, Provider Appreciation ideas, etc.)
- Send articles, photos, good ideas to us for the web-site
- Read Undercurrents on the web

CHALLENGES

Fire and Preventive Medicine Inspections

- CDH staff does not want the liability of having to be the “expert” on fire/safety and health checklists
- Fire prevention staff are the experts (e.g., breaker boxes, wiring, hardwired vice battery smoke detectors, exits, etc.)
- However, waiting for Fire Prevention delays certification beyond the required 4-6 week certification period required by OPNAV
- Inspections made us “A Model for the Nation”

Subsidies and Incentives

- Work smartly with your CD/Youth staff to defend your funds
- Beg for more if you need because if providers transfer from a base with subsidies and incentives and arrive at one with limited funds they will complain and we will lose them!

CEWL

- Parents are referred to a home, then placed on “Preferred List” but two weeks later CDC calls them with an opening and the child quits CDH
- CDH not getting referrals because CDC has empty spaces
- CEWL office gives parents three providers, then the parents never make the call, but they don’t let the CEWL office know either – slows the process

CEWL

- If Provider is leaving place the parent on top of Preferred Care List
- If Parent terminates, place on bottom of list
- Where CEWL is working it does help fill homes - but a slower process
- Good news! - At Reserve bases the parents need shifts, nights, weekends - so not a competition problem with CDC. This should be true everywhere – need to recruit providers who want to work beyond 7-4:30.

HANGING CHADS

MEO

- Lending Library equipment is getting worn out and there is no money to replace (MEO only has $35/child/year. Some bases are not in a MEO, but are told to cut back on equipment budget yet grow CDH?
- “Adequate” space versus “sheds”

MEO

- If CDC is not fully enrolled, they won't let CDH recruit more homes
- Others won't go above the 15 homes in MEO even though the CDH caseload is 30 homes
- What if MEO = 15 providers but 4 or 5 of them only work part-time or just have morning "preschool"? Why can't I go over the MEO and have 15 full-time plus my "preschool" homes?

Communication

- Can providers e-mail through NMCI? Some bases won't allow providers to e-mail the CDH office?
- Will CDH offices be able to develop their own web pages to communicate with providers (e.g., newsletters, training calendars, memos, etc.)?

Hang in there!

and

DON’T

FORGET

TO

VOTE!

RAISING A READER

Kathleen Jennings

CDY Director’s Training
Virginia Beach, VA
24 August 2004

What is it?

- A take home book bag program that promotes daily book cuddling between parents and their children from birth to age 5
- Theory of change based on fun: a child's favorite toy drives the process
- Easy rotation of book bags with literary acclaimed books – multicultural, bilingual
- Read aloud training
- Triangulated Focus on the child – Parents, Providers, Libraries

Addressing a National Crisis

- One in three children enter kindergarten lacking basic pre-reading skills, never developing strong reading skills.
- 60% of the kindergartners in the neighborhoods where children did poorly in school did not own a single book.
- 60% of American inmates are illiterate.
- 90% of brain growth occurs in the first 5 years but public spending begins at Kdg (as low as10%) and majority (90-100%) is spent on high schools.

U.S. Department of Education

- Half the adult population does not possess the most basic level of reading ability.
- Adults at the lowest level of literacy work an average of 19 weeks per year, compared to 44 weeks for those at the highest level
- The public saves $700 for every $100 invested in preschool programming
- Over 1 million children drop out of school each year costing the nation over $240 billion in lost earnings, forgone, tax revenues and expenditures for social services.

Based on Theory of Change

- Child Driven- the rotating bags are a favorite toy
- A “turn-key” delivery system tailored to child-care environments
- Parents watch “Read Aloud” Video & misconceptions put to rest
- Child Care providers trained as professionals
- Families begin using local libraries

THEN

- Children learn vocabulary & pre-literacy skills and benefit from family bonding – a proven step for lifetime success.

Navy Test Pilot

- Midwest Region Great Lakes
- NDW Region Anacostia
- 11 Classrooms
- Classroom Kits – Red book bags with 4 books, read aloud video for parents, blue library bag, caregiver training materials
- Parents surveyed at the beginning and the end
- Analysis of results presented in April 2005